



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ'S) About Indiana's New Educator Licensing System (REPA)

1. How is Indiana changing its Rules 2002 licensing system for educators and when will this new system become effective?

Rules 2002 will be modified in three (3) main respects:

- A. The three levels of licensure remain: Initial, Proficient and Accomplished.
 - The Initial license will become a three-year (3) license.
 - The Proficient license remains a five-year (5) license.
 - The Accomplished license remains a ten-year (10) license, but can be renewed for 10 years.
- B. Indiana will no longer offer licensure for School Social Worker, School Nurse, and Communication Disorders. Individuals in these professions are already licensed by the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA), and do not need additional licensure by IDOE. IPLA licensing is sufficient to indicate quality. Licenses for School Counselor and School Psychologist will remain, as will licenses for building-level and district administrators.
- C. Both the induction program for new teachers with the Initial Practitioner license and the license renewal process for persons with the Proficient and Accomplished Practitioner licenses will be based in Indiana's school districts where school administrators will help design and participate in these processes.

The new licensing system (REPA) will become effective on July 1, 2010.

2. Will teacher testing change under the new system?

Yes, the most important change regarding the PRAXIS tests is that after July 1, 2010 in-state applicants will demonstrate proficiency in basic reading, writing and math for entry into an Indiana teacher education program rather than having to pass the Praxis I tests prior to licensing.

Out- of-state applicants and applicants completing an online preparation program may elect to pass the Praxis I tests or may demonstrate proficiency in basic reading, writing, and math through an SAT/ACT score to be determined by the department.

The PRAXIS II content tests will continue to be required.

Another important change involving the PRAXIS II content tests has to do with additions to existing licenses. Under the REPA, persons with existing teaching licenses who want to add new content areas will need to take and pass the PRAXIS II test for the content area(s) to be added, but will not need to take additional courses.

3. Will Indiana's new licensing system have an induction or mentoring program for new teachers?

Yes, the new licensing system has retained an induction process called the Residency Program. The new residency program is a three year process required for all persons with the Initial Practitioner license. It will be based in the school district, managed by school administrators, may include a formal mentoring element, and will not include a portfolio process.

Current educators in year two (2) of the IMAP program under Rules 2002 do not have to complete a portfolio during the 2009-10 school year. Instead, school districts will receive guidelines and an assessment from the department for year two teachers to complete. Upon successful completion of the assessment, the building-level administrator will verify completion of the induction program.

4. Will license renewal (continuing education) change under the new system?

Yes, Indiana's school districts will be able to provide and evaluate continuing education activities tied to student performance so that all teachers can refine and improve their teaching skills. Completion of these continuing education activities will make the teacher eligible for renewal of his/her license, and this renewal will be accomplished by completion of a license renewal report.

5. Will Indiana still have a temporary license for school districts that cannot locate a licensed teacher for a particular position?

Yes, the Emergency Permit will still be available to school districts to staff an assignment for which they cannot locate a licensed teacher. Also, a new aspect of the Emergency Permit is that it will be available to a school district when it hires a person whose teacher training occurred outside of Indiana and who is not eligible for an Initial Practitioner license.

6. How has Indiana changed the process of the criminal background check?

Effective July 1, 2009, a new law requires school districts to conduct an expanded criminal history (ECH) check for all new employees hired after July 1, 2009 – including certified and noncertified personnel. Also, as of July 1, 2009 the Limited Criminal History report is no longer used by the Department of Education as a part of the application process for any license, permit or certificate.

7. Will Indiana still require persons seeking the first educator license to be trained for CPR/Heimlich maneuver?

Yes, this requirement is unchanged.

8. How will teachers and school administrators add new content areas to their existing licenses?

The holder of any regular teaching or administrative license can add new teaching or school administration areas to the license. For teachers, this is accomplished by passing the relevant PRAXIS II test for any content area(s) being added.

9. Will Indiana still offer reciprocity to persons who have valid educator licenses from other states?

Yes, however the one-year Reciprocal Permit will be eliminated.

A person with a valid educator license from another state who does not meet the requirements for an Initial Practitioner license, AND who is hired to teach by an Indiana accredited school or public school district will be eligible for the Emergency Permit. Out-of-state holders of an Emergency Permit must demonstrate proficiency in basic reading, writing, and math and pass the appropriate Praxis II content area test(s), and the pedagogy test once it becomes required, during the first year on an Emergency Permit in order to renew for a second year.

Persons with valid out-of-state educator licenses who are eligible for the Initial, Proficient, or Accomplished license will continue to receive the Indiana license for the content areas that match those on the out-of-state license.

10. Under the new licensing system, will educators with licenses issued under previous Indiana licensing rules be able to retain these licenses throughout their careers?

No. Under the new system, persons with licenses issued under Bulletins 94, 192, 400, Rules 46-47, and Rules 2002 will be required to convert their license to the corresponding REPA license. The only exception will be for a LIFE license issued under a prior licensing system --- LIFE licenses will be unaffected by the change to REPA.

After July 1, 2010, persons with a license issued under a prior licensing system will convert their licenses at the time their current license expires. Upon completion of appropriate renewal requirements an educator will receive a REPA license with the same content areas and coverage as was on the license under prior rules.

Here are some examples of how licensure will change for persons with licenses issued under previous licensing systems:

- A. The Bulletin 400 General Elementary license with K-9 endorsements will become a REPA license for Elementary Generalist with middle school content areas
- B. The Rules 46-47 General Elementary license with 1-9 endorsements will become a REPA license for Elementary Generalist with middle school content areas
- C. The Rules 46-47 license for Middle School/Junior High with content areas for grades 5-9, will become a REPA license for these content areas for middle school grades
- D. The Rules 2002 licenses for Elementary Primary, Elementary Intermediate and for Elementary Primary & Intermediate will become the REPA license for Elementary Generalist.

- E. The Rules 2002 licenses for Adolescent Generalist with specific content areas will become the REPA license for these content areas for the middle grades.

11. Will the new licensing system list grade levels for content areas on the license?

Yes, under the new licensing system there will be six (6) possible grade levels:

- A. P-6 covering pre-school, kindergarten, and elementary grades.
- B. K-5 via the Transition to Teaching elementary option.
- C. 5-12 covering middle school and high school grades.
- D. 6-12 via the Transition to Teaching secondary option.
- E. P-12 covering all grades.
- F. 5-9 covering middle school grades for specific content areas.

12. How will licensure change for persons teaching elementary education?

Under the new licensing system, there will be one content area called “Elementary Generalist.” This content area will allow the license holder to teach pre-school, kindergarten, or elementary grades (P-6) or kindergarten and elementary grades K-5 (for Transition to Teaching applicants).

13. Will the new licensing system change the content areas now in effect under Rules 2002?

Generally, no. The new system will retain almost all of the content areas for teaching, administrative, and school services licenses. A few content areas will be eliminated, including:

Bilingual/Bicultural
Reading Specialist
Reading
Communication Disorders
School Social Worker
School Nurse
Driver and Traffic Safety Education
Attendance Officer

The three Generalist areas under Rules 2002 for Pre-School, Primary and Intermediate will all become the Elementary Generalist content area under the REPA.

14. What will happen to the Transition to Teaching program and the Transition To Teaching Permit under the REPA?

The Transition to Teaching program will continue to exist under the REPA, as outlined in Indiana Code. Indiana’s teacher training universities and colleges will continue to offer Transition to Teaching programs for their approved elementary and secondary programs.

The Transition to Teaching Permit will continue to be a three-year credential available to an Indiana school district when it must staff a teaching assignment for which no licensed teacher is available.

Under the REPA, Transition to Teaching Permits will be available for any content teaching area when the school district declares that it is unable to locate a properly licensed individual.

15. Under the REPA, will the process of accreditation of Indiana's higher education teacher training institutions be changing?

No, Indiana's teacher training institutions may still elect to satisfy NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) accreditation requirements. For those institutions that decide not to pursue NCATE accreditation, the Office of Educator Licensing and Development will review and approve their programs.

16. How will the procedures and processes for suspension/revocation of educator licenses change under the REPA?

The Department of Education will continue to pursue license suspensions and revocations when an educator has engaged in misconduct or committed an offense that adversely affects students or fellow educators. In response to recent legislation, the department will develop a searchable public data base of former educators whose licenses were revoked due to certain felony convictions and the Office of Legal Affairs is taking a more proactive stance in investigating alleged wrongdoing on the part of school employees.

17. How will the current policy concerning persons who complete out-of-state on-line training to become teachers, administrators and school services personnel, change under the new licensing system?

Under Rules 2002, persons who complete educator training via an on-line process from an out-of-state university or college may be evaluated for an Indiana educator license only if the institution has NCATE accreditation or has been pre-approved by the IDOE.

Under the REPA this policy will be modified to allow persons with on-line out-of-state preparation from institutions that are regionally accredited, or are accredited by the state where the institution is based, to be evaluated for an Indiana educator license.

18. Under Rules 2002, the Workplace Specialist (WS) license came into existence. The Workplace Specialist license replaced the Occupational Specialist license in January 2009. Will the Workplace Specialist license change under the REPA?

Yes, under the REPA workplace specialist licenses will be modified as follows:

- A. There will be two levels of Workplace Specialist licenses:
 - Initial for three (3) years
 - Proficient for five (5) years
- B. As with all other licenses under the REPA, the Initial level Workplace Specialist license requires the educator to complete a beginning teacher residency program.

- C. The career and technical content areas will continue to be available for the Workplace Specialist license, and these new content areas will also be available:

Fine Arts
Journalism
Health and Physical Education
Library/Media

19. Under the new licensing system, will license fees change?

Answer: No, the licensing fees will not change.

20. Where can I locate more information about the REPA?

The proposed rules will be published in the Indiana Register in August 2009 for public review. This publication and the opportunity for public input and testimony are key elements of the administrative rule promulgation process. The Professional Standards Advisory Board will accept public input both online and during a public hearing that will be scheduled.

Upon completion of the promulgation process (expected to continue for the rest of 2009), the REPA will become official. It will begin to take effect on July 1, 2010, and will be completely in effect as of July 1, 2012. There will be a two-year period of transition from Rules 2002 to REPA (to July 1, 2012) for persons in teacher training programs between 2010 and 2012.

Once the REPA is final, the administrative rules that describe it in detail will be posted on the website of the Office of Educator Licensing and Development (www.doe.in.gov/dps), and will also be available in the offices of the Licensing Advisors at Indiana's teacher training colleges and universities.